**01**

**Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

**22 and 28 SHS**

**Augusta, Maine 04333**

**(207) 287-3200**

**2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda**

**Prepared:**

**June 29, 2025**

**01-001T: Office of the Commissioner**

**01-001: Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**

**01-015: Maine Milk Commission**

**01-017: Maine State Harness Racing Commission**

**01-026: Board of Pesticides Control**

**01-303: Pull Events Commission**

**01-669: Bureau of Forestry (Maine Forest Service)**

**01-670: Bureau of Parks and Lands**

**01-672: Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning**

**01-683: Land for Maine’s Future Program**

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**01-001T**

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT: **01-001T**

AGENCY NAME: **Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Office of the Commissioner**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Nancy McBrady, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 530-4176, [Nancy.mcbrady@maine.gov](mailto:Nancy.mcbrady@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULEMAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTER 400-408 (plus potentially additional numbers to be assigned): Rules implementing the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §320-K.

PURPOSE: Potential updates to rules governing the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: PFAS-impacted commercial farms, residents with PFAS-contaminated well water linked to land application of biosolids, and scientific researchers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Beth Valentine, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 313-0962, [beth.valentine@maine.gov](mailto:beth.valentine@maine.gov)

**01-001 (most of 01-001 will be moved to 01-677 Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources except for any that fall within office of the commissioner)**

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT: **01-001**

AGENCY NAME: **Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Craig Lapine, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 557-1623, [Craig.Lapine@maine.gov](mailto:Craig.Lapine@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULEMAKING ACTIVITY:**

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# or #’s to be assigned): Rules for the PFAS Response Program structure and implementation**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS Ch 10-E

PURPOSE: Establish the PFAS Response Program to effectively respond to and address PFAS contamination affecting agricultural producers in the State, including: establishing maximum levels for PFAS in farm products; providing testing and sampling support, technical support, and financial support; and establishing baseline criteria for producers to receive support.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: PFAS-impacted commercial farms, food processors, and distributors/wholesalers of food products.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Meagan Hennessey, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-592-3795, [meagan.hennessey@maine.gov](mailto:meagan.hennessey@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Rules for Expanding the Local Foods Economy by Promoting Local Foods Procurement**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS Ch 8-A § 1

PURPOSE: Establish and promote a local foods procurement program.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 2025.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Farmers, food and seafood processors and public institutions. CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Craig Lapine, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 557-1623, [craig.lapine@maine.gov](mailto:craig.lapine@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Rules Governing the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 320-B

PURPOSE: These rules outline procedures to be used in the administration of the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine agriculture, food, and forest product producers and stakeholders.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Lily Kenny, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3491, [Lily.Kenny@maine.gov](mailto:Lily.Kenny@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 3: Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §5018

PURPOSE: Amend existing rules governing the Emergency Food Assistance Program and adopt new rules governing the Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September, 2025.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Food security organizations including food banks and pantries.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Craig Lapine, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 557-1623, [craig.lapine@maine.gov](mailto:craig.lapine@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 8: Rules for Department Grant Awards and Appeals**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 M.R.S. § 12; 12 M.R.S. § 5012

PURPOSE: Potential updates to rules governing departmental grant awards and appeals.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Farms/Farmers/Grantees/Complainants

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Nancy McBrady, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 530-4176, [Nancy.mcbrady@maine.gov](mailto:Nancy.mcbrady@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 10: Rules for the Agricultural Compliance Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS § 12; 17 MRS § 2701-B; 17 MRS § 2805

PURPOSE: These rules establish procedures for conducting the Agricultural Compliance Program.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Farms/Farmers/Complainants

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Matthew Randall, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7708, [matthew.randall@maine.gov](mailto:matthew.randall@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 11: Rules of Procedure Governing Award of Dates for Agricultural Fairs**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS § 65

PURPOSE: These rules establish procedures for establishing dates for Agricultural Fairs

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Fall 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Fairs

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Kayla Jones 90 Blossom Lane 28 SHS Augusta, ME 04333-0028 207-592-2126 [kayla.jones@maine.gov](mailto:kayla.jones@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 12: Agricultural Fairs Licensing**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS § 65

PURPOSE: These rules establish procedures for the licensing of Agricultural Fairs.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Fall 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Fairs

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Kayla Jones 90 Blossom Lane 28 SHS Augusta, ME 04333-0028 207-592-2126 [kayla.jones@maine.gov](mailto:kayla.jones@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 13: Agricultural Fairs Performance Evaluation**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS § 62

PURPOSE: These rules outline procedures to be used in evaluating the quality of Agricultural Fairs.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Fall 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Fairs, Fair Evaluators

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Kayla Jones 90 Blossom Lane 28 SHS Augusta, ME 04333-0028 207-592-2126 [kayla.jones@maine.gov](mailto:kayla.jones@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 30: Quarantine (Potato)**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2301-2303

PURPOSE: May amend the quarantine against various potato pests to take into

consideration recent survey results on the distribution of such pests in the U.S.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Potato farmers, dealers, buyers, and shippers of imported seed.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Megan Patterson, 28 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333, (207)592-0911, [megan.l.patterson@maine.gov](mailto:megan.l.patterson@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 31: Rules for Operation of Potato Marketing Improvement Fund**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §12, 10 MRS §1023-N

PURPOSE: Make changes to the rules governing the operation of the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Potato industry.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Craig Lapine, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 557-1623, [craig.lapine@maine.gov](mailto:craig.lapine@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 32: Rules for Operation of Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §12, §435

PURPOSE: Make changes to the rules governing the operation of the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commercial agricultural enterprises and businesses engaged in the producing, processing, storing, packaging or marketing of products derived from an agricultural enterprise.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Michelle Webb, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3494, [michelle.t.webb@maine.gov](mailto:michelle.t.webb@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 33: Rules for Operation of Agricultural Development Grant Fund**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 306-A - 309

PURPOSE: Make changes to the rules governing the operation of the Agricultural Development Grant Fund.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Individuals, firms or organizations interested in accelerating new market development, adoption of improved technology and promotion of agricultural products produced in Maine.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Michelle Webb, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3494, [michelle.t.webb@maine.gov](mailto:michelle.t.webb@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 34: Rules for Operation of Dairy Improvement Fund**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §2910-B; 10 M.R.S. §1023-P; 8 M.R.S. §1036 sub-§2-A ¶M

PURPOSE: Make changes to the rules governing the operation of the Dairy Improvement Fund.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commercial agricultural enterprises and businesses engaged in the producing, processing, storing, packaging or marketing of products derived from an agricultural enterprise.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Lucas Knowles, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 592-0640, [lucas.p.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:lucas.p.knowles@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 36: Rules Governing Maine Farms for the Future Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 317-320

PURPOSE: Make changes to the rules governing the operation of the Maine Farms for the Future Program.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine agricultural producers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Michelle Webb, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3494, [michelle.t.webb@maine.gov](mailto:michelle.t.webb@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 38: Rules For Operation of the Farmers Drought Relief Fund**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 220-A

PURPOSE: Make changes to the rules governing the operation of the Farmers Drought Relief Fund.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to June 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine agricultural producers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Tom Gordon, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 592-3584, [Tom.Gordon@Maine.gov](mailto:Tom.Gordon@Maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 50: Rules for the Determination of Insufficient Veterinary Services**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 20-A MRS § 12107

PURPOSE: To establish rules for the determination of insufficient veterinary service areas in accordance with Title 20-A MRS § 12107 and LD 1885 that requires updates to the definition of terms and expansion of definitions and the program to include assessment of emergency and critical care veterinary services.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to June 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine residents studying and practicing veterinary medicine in Maine.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Rachael Fiske, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [rachael.fiske@maine.gov](mailto:Stefanie.bolas@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 122: Fee Schedule for Inspection of Agricultural Commodities**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS, 12, 441, 446, 951-B, 1033A, 1034, 1034A

PURPOSE: Update the rules and authorizing fees to comply with the language and intent of Title §441 which states, “These fees must, as nearly as possible, cover the costs of the inspection services for the commodity inspected.”

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commodities producers and shippers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Poulin, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3841, [celeste.poulin@maine.gov](mailto:celeste.poulin@maine.gov)

**Chapter 201: Rules Governing Licensed Livestock Dealer (DOC)**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 1303 and 1307

PURPOSE: To ensure fair and equitable practices in buying and selling livestock and poultry within the State and to suppress practices in such transactions which tend against the elimination of diseased and unfit livestock and poultry.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to June 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Livestock owners, livestock dealers, auctions, veterinarians

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Taryn Pearson, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [taryn.pearson@maine.gov](mailto:taryn.pearson@maine.gov)

**Chapter 202: Deer**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS § 1333

PURPOSE: Propagation and possession of cervids

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to June 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Deer owners, veterinarians, hunters, IFW

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Taryn Pearson, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [taryn.pearson@maine.gov](mailto:taryn.pearson@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 203: Rules for the Participation in the Maine Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1821

PURPOSE: Rules governing the Maine Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Deer and Elk Industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Taryn Pearson, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7615, [taryn.pearson@maine.gov](mailto:taryn.pearson@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 204: Rule for the Licensing Requirements for Farmed Cervids**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1821

PURPOSE: Rules governing the licensing requirements for farmed cervids

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Deer and Elk Industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Taryn Pearson, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7615, [taryn.pearson@maine.gov](mailto:taryn.pearson@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 205: Rules Governing the Poultry Disease Control Fund**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1756 -§1757

PURPOSE: Rules governing the poultry disease control fund

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Poultry farmers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Rachael Fiske, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [rachael.fiske@maine.gov](mailto:Stefanie.bolas@maine.gov)

**Chapter 206: Prevention and Control of Certain Diseases of Domestic Animals and Poultry**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §1752 and 7 MRSA §1812

PURPOSE: To prevent and control certain diseases of domestic animals and poultry.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to June 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Animal owners, veterinarians, animal transporters

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Rachael Fiske, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [rachael.fiske@maine.gov](mailto:Stefanie.bolas@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 207: Control of Equine Infectious Anemia**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1820-A

PURPOSE: Rules governing the management of equine infectious anemia

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Equine owners

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Rachael Fiske, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [rachael.fiske@maine.gov](mailto:rachael.fiske@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 208: Handling of Domestic Animal and Poultry Vaccines**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1752

PURPOSE: Rules governing animal and poultry vaccine use

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Livestock and poultry industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Rachael Fiske, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [rachael.fiske@maine.gov](mailto:Stefanie.bolas@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 209: Livestock Commission or Community Auctions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1453

PURPOSE: Rules governing auctions

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Livestock auctions

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Taryn Pearson, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7615, [taryn.pearson@maine.gov](mailto:taryn.pearson@maine.gov)

**Chapter 216: Sale and Importation for Resale of Dogs and Cats (DOC)**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §1753 and §1809

PURPOSE: To maintain the health of all dogs and cats imported into the State for resale or adoption or offered for resale or adoption within the State.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to June 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Animal owners, adopters, veterinarians, animal transporters, rescues, shelters, pet shops

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Rachael Fiske, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [rachael.fiske@maine.gov](mailto:rachael.fiske@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 220: Importation of Certain Deer into Maine**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1331

PURPOSE: Rules governing the importation of deer into Maine

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Deer farmers and commercial large game shooting area operations

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Taryn Pearson, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7615, [taryn.pearson@maine.gov](mailto:taryn.pearson@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 226: Rules Governing the Administration of Certain Substances to Animals Entered in Pulling Competitions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §97.5

PURPOSE: The Commissioner will continue to make minor corrections and modifications that are needed to meet the needs of the pulling industry.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 31, 2026.

AFFECTED PARITES: Pulling teamsters, pull superintendents and the Pull Events Commission

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Shane Bacon, 28 SHS Augusta, ME 04333 (207) 287-7568, [shane.bacon@maine.gov](mailto:shane.bacon@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 250: Rules for Certifying American Ginseng**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §2225

PURPOSE: May amend the rules for licensing ginseng growers.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Ginseng farmers, dealers, buyers, and shippers of imported seed

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](mailto:ann.gibbs@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 252: Rules Governing the Certification of Seed Potatoes in the State of Maine**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2101-2105

PURPOSE: May amend rules regarding post-harvest testing and the type of testing accepted to meet Maine standards.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Seed potato producers in Maine

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Megan Patterson, 28 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333, (207)592-0911, [megan.l.patterson@maine.gov](mailto:megan.l.patterson@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 255: Imported Seed Potatoes**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2101-2105

PURPOSE: May update imported seed potatoes rules regarding testing protocols.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Potato producers in Maine

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Megan Patterson, 28 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333, (207)592-0911, [megan.l.patterson@maine.gov](mailto:megan.l.patterson@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 266: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Quarantine**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2301-2303

PURPOSE: May amend the current quarantine against the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid to prevent its artificial spread in the State, to protect Maine's forest, timber and wildlife resources from this destructive pest.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Wood harvesters, nurseries, sawmills, paper mills, mulch dealers and the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](mailto:gary.fish@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 267: License Fees to Sell Nursery Stock**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §2171

PURPOSE: May revise the rules for selling or dealing in nursery stock.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Nursery owners

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\don.wismer\Local%20Settings\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\HE4FCYU8\ann.gibbs@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 270: Maine Apiary Rules and Regulations**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2701-2872

PURPOSE: May amend the current apiary rules.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Beekeepers, blueberry and apple producers, and the

general public

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.  
CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](mailto:gary.fish@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 272: European Larch Canker Quarantine**STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2301-2303

PURPOSE: May amend a quarantine against the European Larch Canker to conform to the requirements of the federal European Larch Canker quarantine.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Saw mills, nurseries, and the general public

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\don.wismer\Local%20Settings\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\HE4FCYU8\ann.gibbs@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 273: Criteria for Listing Invasive Terrestrial Plants**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7MRS §§ Section 221, Chapter 405-A

PURPOSE: May amend the rules to add to the list of plants restricted from sale or import.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Nurseries, greenhouses and the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](mailto:gary.fish@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 274: Rules for Growing Industrial Hemp**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7MRS §§ 2231, Chapter 406-A

PURPOSE: May amend the rules to allow for indoor growing, fee changes and additional rules to license processors or manufacturers.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Potential hemp growers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](mailto:gary.fish@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 275: Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2301-2303

PURPOSE: May amend the current quarantine against the Emerald Ash Borer to prevent its artificial spread in the State, to protect Maine's forest, timber and wildlife resources from this destructive pest.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Wood harvesters, firewood dealers, nurseries, sawmills, paper mills and the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](mailto:gary.fish@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 330: Rules for Birch Syrup**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS c. 103, sub-c. 8-C

PURPOSE: Update rules, as needed, governing the Production and Sale of Birch Syrup and Birch Syrup Products.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commercial agricultural enterprises and businesses engaged in the producing, processing, storing, packaging or marketing of products derived from birch syrup.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Poulin, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3841, [celeste.poulin@maine.gov](mailto:celeste.poulin@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 501: Weights and Measures Law**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 MRS §§ 2633-2751-E

PURPOSE: Rules to create the administrative penalties to be assessed for store pricing errors charging the consumer more than the advertised price.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 31, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Retail stores using scanners

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Bradford Bachelder, 333 Cony Rd, Augusta, Maine 04330, (207) 287-7587, [bradford.bachelder@maine.gov](mailto:bradford.bachelder@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 575:** **Rules Governing the Development of Solar Energy Generation Projects on High-Value Agricultural Land**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 38 MRS §§ 484-C, 3201-3202

PURPOSE: Amend rules as needed related to solar energy development on high-value agricultural land.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Solar energy developers; owners of high-value agricultural land.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Caitlyn Cooper, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 408-5644, [Caitlyn.Cooper@maine.gov](mailto:Caitlyn.Cooper@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 600:** **Rules regarding disposal of cull potato piles**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1007-A

PURPOSE: To update the rules regarding disposal of cull potato piles.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Potato farmers, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Mark Hedrich, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7608, [mark.hedrich@maine.gov](mailto:mark.hedrich@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 701: Rules for Governing Animal Welfare**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §3906-B Section 10

PURPOSE: To ensure that only healthy animals, including birds, are offered for sale or adoption and that all animals, within the scope of the Commissioner's authority, shall receive proper care, housing facilities, disease control, records of sales and purchases, euthanasia records and licenses will be monitored by Animal Welfare.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pet Stores, Breeding Kennels; Boarding Kennels; Equine Owners, Animal Shelters, Animal Control Officers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Ronda Steciuk, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3846, [ronda.steciuk@maine.gov](mailto:ronda.steciuk@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Animal Control Officer Training and Certification Standards**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §3996-B §§ 4, 10

PURPOSE: To implement rules around the training, certification, and maintenance of certification of Animal Control Officers, including a code of conduct.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Before December 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Animal Control Officers, Municipalities employing Animal Control Officers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Ronda Steciuk 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-5531, [ronda.steciuk@maine.gov](mailto:ronda.steciuk@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to assigned): Rules for Nutrient management plans for fish hatcheries**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II‑A

PURPOSE: To establish requirements for nutrient management plans for fish hatcheries, compliance schedules for fish hatcheries, a process for review of the nutrient management plans, periodic revisions of plans and determination of compliance with the plans.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: The rulemaking process will begin in summer/fall of 2025 is anticipated to be completed in the Summer of 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Fish hatcheries, not including off-shore marine aquaculture operations in estuarine or marine waters.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not-contemplated. Routine Technical.

CONTACT PERSON: Mark Hedrich, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7608, [mark.hedrich@maine.gov](mailto:mark.hedrich@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 751: Rules Governing Arborist Licensing, Testing and Enforcement in the State of Maine**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §404, §§ 2173-2191

PURPOSE: May need to amend the current requirements adopted in 2006 to clarify certain provisions relating to the licensing of arborists in the State of Maine. May consider raising the licensing fee to support enforcement and continuing education.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Individuals currently licensed or wishing to become licensed as arborists in the State of Maine

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Fish, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7545, [gary.fish@maine.gov](mailto:ann.gibbs@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 802: Rules Governing Disbursal of Challenge Grant Funds**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §206

PURPOSE: Update and revise the rules governing the dispersal of challenge grant funds.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine state soil and water conservation districts.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Tom Gordon, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-4986, tom.gordon@maine.gov.

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Rules Governing the Maine Cattle Health Assurance** **Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §1309

PURPOSE: Rules governing the Maine Cattle Health Assurance Program

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Livestock industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Rachael Fiske, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3701, [rachael.fiske@maine.gov](mailto:rachael.fiske@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Designation of Potato Pests and Diseases; Seizure, Destruction, Disinfection**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 2351-2352

PURPOSE: May need to designate those potato pests and diseases which pose a threat to the Maine potato industry; provide for the control and eradication of such pests and diseases; and provide for the disinfection of any vehicles to prevent the spread of such pests and diseases.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Potato farmers in Maine

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Megan Patterson, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207)592-0911, [megan.l.patterson@maine.gov](mailto:megan.l.patterson@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Veterinarian/Animal Shelter Serving as Dog Licensing Agent**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §3923-F

PURPOSE: rules providing a process for identifying animal shelters and veterinarians who are willing to serve as dog licensing agents, for distributing license blanks, tags and stickers, and for the collection, distribution and deposit of license fees into the appropriate state accounts.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to Dec. 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Animal Shelters, Veterinarians, Municipal Offices

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Ronda Steciuk, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3846, [ronda.steciuk@maine.gov](mailto:ronda.steciuk@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (#to be assigned): Rules for Non-alcoholic Beverage Bottling**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 32 Chapter 27, Sub-1-3

PURPOSE: Create rules governing the bottling of beverages in the State of Maine.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commercial agricultural enterprises and businesses engaged in the producing, processing, bottling of beverages.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Poulin, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3841, [celeste.poulin@maine.gov](mailto:celeste.poulin@maine.gov)

**01-015**

AGENCY UMBRELLA - UNIT NUMBER: **01-015**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, **Maine Milk Commission**

**CONTACT PERSON**: Julie-Marie Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**:

**Chapter 3**, Schedule of Minimum Prices (monthly)

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITIES:**

**CHAPTER 1: Orders**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2952-A through 2989

PURPOSE: Reflect Commission rulings and legal interpretations, required records, price computations, container sizes, and other matters necessary to carry out *Maine Milk Commission Law*.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any or all segments of the dairy industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 4: Marketing Areas**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2954

PURPOSE: Establish in-state milk market(s) to be used for consideration when setting Maine minimum milk prices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 5: Dealer Cost Accounting and Reporting System**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2952-A through 289

PURPOSE: Amend present rules to reflect changing industry standards, new APA requirements, and/or to upgrade and modernize past practices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 6: Inspection of Records, Books and Accounts**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2952-A through 2989

PURPOSE: Amend present rules to reflect changing industry standards, new APA requirements, and/or to upgrade and modernize past practices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 7: Advisory Rulings**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2952-A through 2989

PURPOSE: Allow publication and distribution of non-binding guidance on existing rules and statutes.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 10: Accounting Review of 1979 Dealer Data**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2953, 2956

PURPOSE: This rule requires major Maine dealers (i.e., dairy processing plants) to engage an independent certified public accountant to conduct a financial "review" of the operations and cost data submitted by them last year to the Commission's consultant.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 11: Dealer and Subdealer Delivery Route Information Reports**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2953

PURPOSE: Requires milk dealers and subdealers to report delivery route information and establishes a standard format for reporting.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 13: Retail Cost Studies**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2952-A through 2989

PURPOSE: Establish the process for conducting the retail cost study for use in calculating the retail margin, applied when setting Maine minimum milk prices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 14: 30 Days Notice**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2953 & 2959

PURPOSE: Notice requirement adopted by the Maine Milk Commission for distributors to give before terminating milk deliveries to a customer.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 20: Prevention of Destructive Competition**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §2981 et seq.

PURPOSE: Sets definitions for and an explanation of what was considered “destructive competition,” and extends the Commission’s regulatory authority to product sizes not covered by minimum prices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 27: Retail Margins**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2952-A through 2989

PURPOSE: Set new minimum retail margins according to cost study and hearing testimony.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Retailers and consumers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 26:** **Producer Margin / Cost of Production**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §2953-2954

PURPOSE: Set minimum producer price based on Federal order and actual cost of production.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Producers, dealers, retailers and consumers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 28: Milk Promotion Fee**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2954

PURPOSE: Reflects the federal promotion order fee to be used when setting Maine minimum milk prices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 29:** **Dealer Margin**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §2953-2954

PURPOSE: Set minimum producer price based on Federal order and actual cost of production.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Producers, dealers, retailers and consumers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 60: Maine Milk Pool - Operation**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2954

PURPOSE: Establish in-state milk market(s) to be used for consideration when setting Maine minimum milk prices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 61: Maine Milk Pool Cost of Administration**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2952-A through 2954 and 3154

PURPOSE: Set new cost of administration of Maine Milk Pool after public hearings and testimony.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Processors and producers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 62: General Fund Money Distributed to Maine Dairy Farmers**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §§ 2954

PURPOSE: Establish in-state milk market(s) to be used for consideration when setting Maine minimum milk prices.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Commission, intervenors and industry

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Rules to Adjust the Milk License Fees**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 M.R.S.A. §2955 through §2956.

PURPOSE: Adjust the Fees charged for an annual Milk Dealer, Sub-dealer, or Producer-dealer License

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Milk Dealers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Rules to Adjust the Maine Milk Commission Fees**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 M.R.S.A. §2956.

PURPOSE: Adjust the per hundredweight fees charged for to support the activities of the Maine Milk Commission

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine dairy producers and Maine dairy processors & handlers

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Julie-Marie R. Bickford, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7521, [julie-marie.bickford@maine.gov](mailto:tim.drake@maine.gov)

**01-017**

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT: **01-017**

AGENCY NAME: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, **Maine State Harness Racing Commission**

**CONTACT PERSON**: Shane Bacon, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-3221, [shane.bacon@maine.gov](mailto:shane.bacon@maine.gov)

EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA: None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTERS 1 through 21 and/or New Rule: Various Titles**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 8 MRS §§ 263-A; 268, 275-C, 279-A and B, 281

PURPOSE: The Maine State Harness Racing Commission may continue to update its rules to meet the needs of an ever-changing industry.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to December 31, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Harness horse racing licensees, track owners and operators, pari-mutuel wagering facilities and those affiliated with the harness racing industry.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Shane Bacon, 28 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-3221, [shane.bacon@maine.gov](mailto:shane.bacon@maine.gov)

**01-026**

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT: **01-026**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, **Board of Pesticides Control**

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-2731, Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov

RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:

**CHAPTER 31: Certification and Licensing Provisions for Commercial Applicators**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 2 MRS §§ 1471-D and S

PURPOSE: The Board may revise this regulation to accommodate new licensing software, streamline processes or deregulate certain types of pesticide applications. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All persons licensed by the Board.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov

**CHAPTER 32: Certification and Licensing Provisions for Private Applicators**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 2 MRS §§ 1471-D and S

PURPOSE: The Board may amend any of its current regulations dealing with the examination, certification, licensing and relicensing of private applicators to accommodate new licensing software, streamline procedures and/or adjust the fees. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All persons licensed by the Board.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 50: Reporting Requirements for Applicators and Dealers**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§ 1471-G and M

PURPOSE: The Board may adopt rules making necessary changes to record keeping requirements. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All private and commercial applicators, dealers and consumer or environmental groups.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY**:

**CHAPTER 10: Definitions and Terms**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§1471A-X

PURPOSE: This chapter must be updated each time a new definition is added or amended. Issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All individuals and businesses affected by the Board’s rules.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 20: Special Provisions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§1471A-X

PURPOSE: The chapter allows the Board to create special provisions responsive to changing conditions or needs as they arise. Prior examples include provisions relating to permissions of property owners, outdoor treatments to residential properties, employer requirements to protect employees, and submissions of confidential statements of formula to register products containing PFAS. Chapter 20 is a key chapter for the Board when it determines that additional regulation is in the public interest, so future amendments are possible.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All individuals and businesses affected by the Board’s rules.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 22: Standards for Outdoor Application of Pesticides by Powered Equipment in Order to Minimize Off-Target Deposition**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 601-625 and 22 MRSA §§1471A-X

PURPOSE: Issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All applicators making outdoor applications with powered application equipment.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 24: Pesticide Storage Facility Standards/Pesticide Distributors**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS § 1471-O and 7 MRSA § 610(2)(B)

PURPOSE: The Board may adjust these standards to address concerns ranging from vagueness, to odor and spilled chemical concerns, to different requirements for agricultural distributors and warehouse retailers. Further issues may arise necessitating additional amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pesticide retailers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 26: Standards for Indoor Application of Pesticides**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§1471A-X and 7 MRSA §§ 601-625

PURPOSE: Issues regarding indoor and outdoor application may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All structural pest control applicators, owners or managers of businesses, institutions and apartment houses, as well as interested members of the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 27: Standards for Pesticide Applications and Public Notification in Schools**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§1471A-X and 7 MRSA §§ 601-625

PURPOSE: Several minor clarifications have been identified which should be addressed. Since use of pesticides on school grounds continues to garner legislative and public attention, further amendments may be necessary in the future.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All public and private school systems as well as commercial applicators and all persons using school buildings and grounds.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 28: Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS § 1471-M (2)(D)

PURPOSE: This rule contains all of the Board outdoor notification requirements. There is some sentiment indicating that additional legislative initiatives may be forthcoming on this subject, which would likely necessitate rulemaking. This chapter also needs some updating to reflect the evolution of its usage.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pesticide applicators and persons who live near sprayed sites. Persons who believe they are sensitive to pesticides. Regulated parties include all commercial pesticide applicators, the landowners who hire them and anyone who applies pesticides outdoors in the vicinity of persons on the registry.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 29. Standards for Water Quality Protection**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS § 1471-M(2)(D)

PURPOSE: A recent federal court decision now requires applicators to work under a Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for certain outdoor pesticide applications that have the potential for a portion of the spray to deposit in surface water, so Chapter 29 may need to be amended to address this change. In addition, the Board may look to exempt certain urgent applications from the 25-foot buffer requirement. These and additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pesticide manufacturers, outdoor applicators, persons owning land next to surface water bodies and environmental groups.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 31: Certification and Licensing Provisions for Commercial Applicators**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 2 MRS §§ 1471-D and S

PURPOSE: The Board may find it necessary to revise this regulation again to accommodate new licensing software, streamline processes or deregulate certain types of pesticide applications. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All persons licensed by the Board.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 32: Certification and Licensing Provisions for Private Applicators**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 2 MRS §§ 1471-D and S

PURPOSE: The Board may amend any of its current regulations dealing with the examination, certification, licensing, and relicensing of private applicators to accommodate new licensing software, streamline procedures, and/or adjust the fees. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All persons licensed by the Board.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 33: Certification Provisions/Private Applicators of General Use Pesticides**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 2 MRS §§ 1471-D (2-D), 22 MRSA 1471-M (1) (C-1)

PURPOSE: Changes to the federal certification and training requirements will necessitate amendments to this rule. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All individuals and businesses affected by the Board’s rules.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 34: Certification and Licensing Provisions for Pesticide Dealers**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 2 MRS §§ 1471-D and S

PURPOSE: The Board may amend its current regulation to require pesticide dealers to have a company license in addition to having their employees licensed. Also, the license fee is outdated. Other changes may be necessary as the Board reviews all the licensing chapters with a view toward streamlining and simplifying procedures.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pesticide distributors.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 35: Certification and Licensing Provisions for Spray Contracting Firms**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§ 1471-D and S

PURPOSE: The Board may amend this chapter dealing with licensing and relicensing of firms to accommodate new licensing software, continue to streamline procedures and/or adjust fees.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All persons licensed by the Board.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 40: State Restricted Pesticide List**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 601-625 and 22 MRSA §§ 1471A-X

PURPOSE: The Board may update its Restricted Use List by deleting products that are no longer registered. Also, it may be necessary to modify the list as a result of the Board’s registration review process which may necessitate adding any products which present a unique threat to Maine’s public health or the environment. Additional issues may arise, necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pesticide manufacturers, pesticide applicators and environmental groups interested in pesticide issues.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 41: Special Restrictions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §§ 601-625 and 22 MRSA §§ 1471A-X

PURPOSE: There have been significant changes to this chapter in the last ten years, and additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment. Following activities of the 132nd Legislature, rulemaking in this chapter may be necessary.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All applicators and environmental groups.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 50: Reporting Requirements for Applicators and Dealers**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§ 1471-G and M

PURPOSE: Changes to Chapters 22, 27 and 41 have created additional record keeping requirements that might be more appropriately incorporated in Chapter 50. Current rulemaking around the licensing chapters may also necessitate changes to record keeping requirements. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All private and commercial applicators, dealers and consumer or environmental groups.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 51: Notice of Aerial Pesticide Applications**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS § 1471-R

PURPOSE: Legislative activity around pesticide notification may necessitate amendments to this chapter. The Board has expressed an interest in regulating unmanned aircraft systems, which may require amendments to this chapter. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Aerial applicators, paper companies, utility officials, and environmental groups.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 60. Designation of Critical Pesticide Control Area**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS § 1471 - M (4)

PURPOSE: Upon receipt of a petition, the Board would be required to consider rulemaking to restrict pesticide usage within a designated area to protect public health, threatened or endangered species or their habitat, surface or ground water, or other environmental resources. Additional issues may arise necessitating further amendment.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Persons living within the requested area and all applicators wishing to do business within the designated zone.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: The Board engaged in consensus-based rule development the last time a request was received and would likely try it again.

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**NEW RULE CHAPTER (# to be assigned): Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Ground Systems, Other**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 MRS §§1471A-X and 7 MRSA §§ 601-625

PURPOSE: The Board is considering implementing rules around both unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and unmanned ground systems (UGS) for use in pesticide applications. Additional issues may arise necessitating adoption of a new rule chapter.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to September 30, 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: All pesticide applicators and dealers, as well as interested members of the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Alexander Peacock, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333 (207) 287-2731 [Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov](mailto:Alexander.R.Peacock@maine.gov)

**01-303**

AGENCY UMBRELLA - UNIT NUMBER: **01-303**

AGENCY NAME: **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Pull Events Commission**

**CONTACT PERSON**: Miles Greenleaf, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-7535, [miles.d.greenleaf@maine.gov](mailto:miles.d.greenleaf@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITIES:**

**CHAPTER 15: Rules for Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Pull Events**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §97(5) and §98

PURPOSE: The Pull Events Commission will continue to make minor corrections and modifications that are needed to meet the needs of the pulling industry.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pulling teamsters, pull superintendents, and licensed venues that conduct pulling competitions.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Miles Greenleaf, 28 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-7535, [miles.greenleaf@maine.gov](mailto:miles.greenleaf@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 226: Rules Governing the Administration of Certain Substances to Animals Entered in Pulling Competitions.**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRS §97(5) and §98

PURPOSE: The Pull Events Commission will continue to make minor corrections and modifications that are needed to meet the needs of the pulling industry.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to October 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Pulling teamsters, pull superintendents, and licensed venues that conduct pulling competitions

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Miles Greenleaf, 28 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-7535, [miles.greenleaf@maine.gov](mailto:miles.greenleaf@maine.gov)

**01-669**

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **01-669**

AGENCY NAME:Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, **Bureau of Forestry (aka Maine Forest Service)**

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THE AGENCY:** Morten Moesswilde, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 287-2791, [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:donald.j.mansius@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** Amendments to **CHAPTER 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting Activities within Unorganized and De-organized Areas of the State** (to align with Chapter 21)

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTER 20: Forest Regeneration & Clearcutting Standards**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS c. 805, sub-c. 3-A.

PURPOSE: Ensure consistency with Chapter 32 Spruce Budworm Management rules and other rules. If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners and managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 21: Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Areas**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS c. 805, sub-c. 3-A.

PURPOSE: Clarify permitting and variance procedures. If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners and managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 23: Timber Harvesting Standards to Substantially Eliminate**

**Liquidation Harvesting**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS c. 805, sub-c. 3-A.

PURPOSE: If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners and managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 25: Standards for Placing Wood Into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS c. 805, sub-c. 3-A.

PURPOSE: Ensure consistency with Chapter 32 Spruce Budworm Management rules and other rules. If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Make rule standards consistent with federal program standards. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners and managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 26: Forest Operations Notification Standards**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS c. 805, sub-c. 3-A.

PURPOSE: Ensure consistency with Chapter 32 Spruce Budworm Management rules and other rules. If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners and managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting Activities within Unorganized and De-organized Areas of the State**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS Chapter 206-A, Subchapter 2 and Chapter 805, Subchapter 3-A

PURPOSE: Ensure consistency with Chapter 32 Spruce Budworm Management rules and other rules. If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners and managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 28: Regulation of the Transportation of Firewood**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §8305

PURPOSE: Regulate the transportation and movement of firewood into and within the state to reduce the risk of spreading invasive insect species.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Out-of-state visitors who use firewood, firewood dealers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Allison Kanoti, 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov](mailto:allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 29: Fee Schedule**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §8867-F.

PURPOSE: Ensure consistency with Chapter 32 Spruce Budworm Management rules and other rules. Conform bureau fees to those collected by agencies with similar rules. If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 30: Prior Approval Process and Stop Work Orders**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS c. 805, sub-c. 3-A.

PURPOSE: Ensure consistency with Chapter 32 Spruce Budworm Management rules and other rules. If rulemaking to consolidate definitions under a single rule proceeds, this rule will need to be amended to remove its definition section. Also correct errors and omissions in section references and general language cleanup.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest managers.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde; 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 32: Spruce Budworm Management**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §8002(2), Chapter 803, Subchapter 4-A, and Chapter 805, Subchapter 3-A.

PURPOSE: To establish timber harvesting standards for forest areas that have a significant risk of damage from spruce budworm and are subject to a credible threat of imminent spruce budworm damage.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde, 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 33: Definitions**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS Chapter 803, Subchapter 4-A, and Chapter 805, Subchapter 3-A.

PURPOSE: To establish a common set of definitions that apply to all rules administered by the bureau.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Forest landowners

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Morten Moesswilde, 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-2791; [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 34: Private Party Burn Permit Software Requirements**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §9327

PURPOSE: To establish requirements for private party burn permit software pursuant to Public Law 2017, Chapter 447, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Issuance of Burn Permits.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules are anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, developers of private party burn permit software

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Robby Gross 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 287-4990; [robby.gross@maine.gov](mailto:robby.gross@maine.gov)

**Chapter 35: Browntail Moth Mitigation Fund**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §8321

PURPOSE: To establish rules for the distribution of funds for mitigation to areas impacted by browntail moth pursuant to Public Law 2022, Chapter 727, An Act To Provide Assistance to Areas Severely Infested with Browntail Moths.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Final rules are anticipated by late 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Government entities, non-profits, residents of and visitors to browntail moth-infested areas.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Allison Kanoti, 87 Airport Road, Old Town, ME 04468, 827-1813; [allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov](mailto:allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov)

**01-670**

AGENCY UMBRELLA - UNIT NUMBER: **01-670**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, **Bureau of Parks and Lands**

**CONTACT PERSON**: Ron Hunt, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-4717, [ron.hunt@maine.gov](mailto:ron.hunt@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTER 2: Rules for Recreational Use of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS, Chapter 220 §1803

PURPOSE: Various changes to correct minor spelling errors and typos.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to Summer 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Canoeists, fishermen, hikers, and the general public

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Mark Deroche, 106 Hogan Rd., Ste. 7, 4th Floor., Bangor, ME 04401, (207) 941-4014, [mark.deroche@maine.gov](mailto:mark.deroche@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 2: Rules for recreational use of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS, Chapter 220 §1803

PURPOSE: Add: To remove the rules and guidelines for Winter Camping at Chamberlain Thoroughfare and Kellogg Brook, and establish a more flexible and efficient Allagash Wilderness Waterway winter camping reservation system for the public.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completion by Spring of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: AWW winter campers, Snowmobilers, fishermen, and the general public

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Mark Deroche, 106 Hogan Rd., Ste. 7, 4th Floor., Bangor, ME 04401, (207) 941-4014, [mark.deroche@maine.gov](mailto:mark.deroche@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 2: Rules for State Parks and Historic Sites**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS, Chapter 220 § 1803

PURPOSE: The bureau may take action to protect Allagash Wilderness Waterway resources, to protect public health and safety, to provide security, to avoid user conflicts, or for other reasons deemed necessary. A park superintendent or designee may exclude a person who violates any state park or historic site rule for a specified period of time.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completion by Spring of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Canoeists, campers, snowmobilers, anglers, hikers and the general public

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Ron Hunt, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-4717, [ron.hunt@maine.gov](mailto:ron.hunt@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 3: Rules for Navigational Aids**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §1894

PURPOSE: Modify Rules and Regulations for the Aids to Navigation System.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Spring of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Boating public and political subdivisions

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Thomas Linscott, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-6830, [Thomas.Linscott@maine.gov](mailto:Thomas.Linscott@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 4: Rules and Regulations Governing Boating Facilities**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §1803

PURPOSE: Modify Rules of Conduct at Boat Launching Facilities.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Spring of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Boating public and political subdivisions

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Thomas Linscott, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-6830, [Thomas.Linscott@maine.gov](mailto:Thomas.Linscott@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 5: Rules and Regulations for Lunch and Campsites in Penobscot Corridor, Lobster Lake and Chesuncook Lake.**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §1803

PURPOSE: Add: The bureau may take action to protect state park resources, to protect public health and safety, to provide security, to avoid user conflicts, or for other reasons deemed necessary. A park manager or designee may exclude a person who violates any state park or historic site rule for a specified period of time.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Spring of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Campers, Snowmobilers, fishermen, and the general public

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Ron Hunt, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 287-4717, [ron.hunt@maine.gov](mailto:ron.hunt@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 7: Rules for Snowmobile Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §1893(3)

PURPOSE: Establish the Bureau’s Grants-in-Aid program, identify the procedures for making grants-in-aid to political subdivisions for the construction and/or maintenance of snowmobile trails.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Fall of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Snowmobile clubs and political subdivisions

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Joe Higgins, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-4959, [joe.higgins@maine.gov](mailto:joe.higgins@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 8: Rules for Snowmobile Club Trail Maintenance Grant-In-Aid Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §1893(3)

PURPOSE: Establish the Bureau’s process that qualified snowmobile clubs use to apply for grants, and the terms and conditions of these grants.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Fall of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Snowmobile clubs and political subdivisions

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Joe Higgins, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-4959, [joe.higgins@maine.gov](mailto:joe.higgins@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 9: Rules for Snowmobile Capital Equipment Grant-In-Aid Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §13104

PURPOSE: Establish the Bureau’s Snowmobile Capital Equipment Grant in Aid Program and its associated Capital Equipment Fund, identify the application and scoring process for qualified snowmobile clubs or political subdivisions, and define the terms and conditions of these Grants.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Fall of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Snowmobile clubs and political subdivisions

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Joe Higgins, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-4959, [joe.higgins@maine.gov](mailto:joe.higgins@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 15: Rules for General ATV Trail Guidance. ATV Trail Program Insurance**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS§1893(2)

PURPOSE: Establish the Bureau’s process to provide for the wise and orderly management of ATVs and the funding allocated to individual clubs.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Summer of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: ATV clubs, political subdivisions, and landowners.

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Matt Foster, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-4958, [matthew.l.foster@maine.gov](mailto:matthew.l.foster@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 18: Rules for ATV Municipal Grant-In-Aid Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS§1893(2)

PURPOSE: Establish the Bureau’s Grants-in-Aid Program, identify the procedures for making grants-in-aid to political subdivisions for the construction and/or maintenance of ATV trails.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Summer of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: ATV clubs and political subdivisions

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Matt Foster, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-4958, [matthew.l.foster@maine.gov](mailto:matthew.l.foster@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 53: Submerged Land Rules**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §§ 1801, 1803, and 1862

PURPOSE: These rules need to be amended to establish updated definitions, procedures and application fees.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Spring of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Users of coastal waters and publicly owned submerged lands.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: John Noll, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-4919, [john.noll@maine.gov](mailto:john.noll@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 54: Rules for Bear Baiting on Public Lands**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §1802

PURPOSE: May amend the rules to allow for a periodic review of permit fees and/or a standard price inflator; and may amend the rules regarding penalties to allow for an appeal process. Administrative details of the application process will be updated along with provisions for locating and managing bait sites on the ground. The full scope of the rules will be considered with staff and public input for needed updates.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Completed by Summer of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Individual and Commercial Bear Hunters

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Jim Vogel, 22 SHS, Augusta ME 04333, (207) 841-3427, [jim.vogel@maine.gov](mailto:jim.vogel@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 160: Rules for ATV Club Trail Maintenance Grant-In-Aid Program**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §1893(2)

PURPOSE: Establish the Bureau’s process that qualified ATV clubs use to apply for grants and the terms and conditions of these grants.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Summer of 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: ATV clubs and political subdivisions

CONSENSUS–BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Matt Foster, 22 SHS Augusta, ME 04333, (207) 287-4958, [matthew.l.foster@maine.gov](mailto:matthew.l.foster@maine.gov)

**New Rule Chapter (# to be assigned): Rules for Determining a Substantial Alteration of Use Pursuant to 12 MRS 598-C**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §598-C

PURPOSE: Adopt rules to establish an objective evaluation process for determining if a proposed activity on land designated under this chapter and under the jurisdiction of the bureau would cause the land to be reduced or the uses of the land to be substantially altered.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Completed by Summer of 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Users and advocates for public land.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not-contemplated; rules are major-substantive.

CONTACT PERSON: Andy Cutko, State House Station 22, Augusta ME 04333.  207-592-4149, [andy.cutko@maine.gov](mailto:andy.cutko@maine.gov)

**01-672**

AGENCY UMBRELLA - UNIT NUMBER: **01-672**

AGENCY NAME:Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, **Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning, Municipal Planning Assistance Program [OLD: 07-105 State Planning Office]**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Judith East, 106 Hogan Rd, Bangor, Maine 04401, (207) 592-1724, [judith.c.east@maine.gov](mailto:judith.c.east@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**Chapter 1: Fee Schedule**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRSA §685-B(2) and §685-C(3)

PURPOSE: Staff have discovered that revisions to the fee schedule in 2021 have worked well for complex and multi-faceted projects but have adversely impacted the time needed to accept an application for residential development. This rule needs to be updated to consider a flat fee for building permits and possibly modify or eliminate the activity fee for disturbed areas.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Issue proposed amendments by August 2025; provisionally adopt amendments by December 2025; submit for legislative review January 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Property owners and others who hold interests in lands within the unorganized and de-organized areas of the state and interested members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated/not warranted.

CONTACT PERSON: Tim Beaucage, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; 207-931-6974, [timothy.beaucage@maine.gov](mailto:timothy.beaucage@maine.gov).

**CHAPTER 2: Definitions**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §§ 685-A(3) and 685-C(5)

PURPOSE: Chapter 2 establishes definitions pertinent to the Commission’s land use regulations. This rule needs to be updated periodically to address issues that become obvious through experience gained from applying current rules, as well as to correct errors, ensure consistency with recently enacted legislation, update references as appropriate, and make other changes to Chapter 2.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Issue proposed amendments by January 2026; adopt amendments by July 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Property owners and others who hold interests in lands within the unorganized and de-organized areas of the state and interested members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated/not warranted.

CONTACT PERSON: Tim Beaucage, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; 207-931-6974, [timothy.beaucage@maine.gov](mailto:timothy.beaucage@maine.gov).

**CHAPTER 4: Rules of Practice, Miscellaneous Changes**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §684 and §685-C(5)

PURPOSE: Chapter 4 establishes rules of procedure pertinent to the Commission’s zoning and permitting processes. Periodic updates to this rule are warranted to address issues that become obvious through experience gained from applying current rules, as well as to correct errors, update references as appropriate, and make other revisions to the Commission’s procedures.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Issue proposed amendments by April 2026; Consideration of comments received and possible adoption in August 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: The proposed changes could affect all individuals proposing development in the unorganized and deorganized areas of the state and interested members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Tim Beaucage, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; 207-931-6974, [timothy.beaucage@maine.gov](mailto:timothy.beaucage@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 10: Land Use Districts and Standards,** **NRPA-related Changes**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §685-A(3) and §685-C(5)

PURPOSE: Rules need to be promulgated to improve resource protection in LUPC jurisdiction consistent with

that provided under the Natural Resource Protection Act in organized areas of the state, as required by the NRPA statute.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Issue proposed amendments by June 2026 adopt amendments by September 2026; submit for legislative review during January 2027.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Property owners and others who hold interests in lands within the unorganized and de-organized areas of the state and interested members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Megan Lamb, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; 207-446-8823, [Megan.Lamb@maine.gov](mailto:Megan.Lamb@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 10: Land Use Districts and Standards, Miscellaneous Changes**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §685-A(3) and §685-C(5)

PURPOSE: Chapter 10 rules establish land use subdistricts and land use standards for lands within the unorganized and de-organized areas of the state. They need to be updated periodically to address issues that become obvious through experience gained from applying current rules, as well as to correct errors, ensure consistency with recently enacted legislation, update references as appropriate, and make other changes to Chapter 10. Examples of changes to be considered include updating standards governing nonconformity, updating road and road crossing standards, updating clearing standards, updating water withdrawal standards, updating the recreational lodging rules as more experience is gained in applying them, updating language regarding mining, updating standards to address cannabis law changes, improving consistency in terminology, adding areas to the list of DACSS, changing the terminology for bridge reconstruction and certain other development in flood prone areas, and updating standards for lighting.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Issue proposed amendments by January 2026; adopt amendments by July 2026; submit for legislative review during January 2027.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Property owners and others who hold interests in lands within the unorganized and de-organized areas of the state and interested members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Tim Beaucage, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; 207-931-6974, [timothy.beaucage@maine.gov](mailto:timothy.beaucage@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 10: Land Use Districts and Standards, New Standards for Certain Development Activities**

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §685-A(3) and §685-C(5)

PURPOSE: Rules need to be promulgated to address current research, policy concepts, and new standards for small and mid-sized solar energy generation facilities, battery storage facilities, decommissioning, financial assurances, short-term rentals, climate change resilience, and water withdrawals.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Issue proposed amendments by June 2026; adopt amendments by September 2026; submit for legislative review during January 2027.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Landowners and others who hold interests in lands within the unorganized and de-organized areas of the state and interested members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Tim Beaucage, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; 207-931-6974, [timothy.beaucage@maine.gov](mailto:timothy.beaucage@maine.gov)

**CHAPTERS 2, 10, AND 17: Various Titles,** Locally Driven LUPC Rulemaking

STATUTORY BASIS: 12 MRS §§685-C(1-A), and 685-A(4-A)(B

PURPOSE: The Commission will be responsive to local and regional planning and rulemaking initiatives. Examples include customized zoning or standards from Community Guided Planning and Zoning projects or rule changes necessary to respond to changes in land use regulatory authority as in municipal deorganizations.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: To be determined if projects develop.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Landowners and others who hold interests in lands within the affected communities.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not contemplated

CONTACT PERSON: Stacy Benjamin, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; 207-441-3761, [stacy.benjamin@maine.gov](mailto:stacie.r.beyer@maine.gov)

**CHAPTER 208: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW CRITERIA RULE**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 30-A MRS §§ §4347-A(1) - (5)

PURPOSE: Rules governing the submission requirements and criteria by which the Municipal Planning Assistance Program reviews comprehensive plans for consistency with the Growth Management Law. Changes will address streamlining the submission process, restructuring Comprehensive Plan data requirements to respond to legislative decisions about comprehensive plan policy.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Issue proposed amendments by January 2026; adopt amendments by November 2026

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, Regional Councils, and interested members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Anticipated subject to available staff/funds.

CONTACT PERSON: Joan Walton, 22 State House Station, 18 Elkins Lane, Augusta ME 04333, (207) 419-8661, [joan.walton@maine.gov](mailto:judith.c.east@maine.gov)

**01-677 (most of 01-001 will be moved to this unit)**

AGENCY UMBRELLA - UNIT NUMBER: **01-677**

AGENCY NAME: **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Craig Lapine, 28 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 557-1623, [Craig.Lapine@maine.gov](mailto:Craig.Lapine@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**01-683**

AGENCY UMBRELLA - UNIT NUMBER: **01-683**

AGENCY NAME: **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Land for Maine’s Future Program**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Laura Graham, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 592-6135, [laura.graham@maine.gov](mailto:laura.graham@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**New Rule Chapter (# to be assigned): Rules Governing Land for Maine’s Future Program Grant Administration**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sec. 5. 5 MRS §6203-A, sub-§2

PURPOSE: Adopt rules governing the awarding of grants to Designated State Agencies and cooperating entities by the Land for Maine’s Future Program.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Prior to July 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for land acquisition funds and supporting funds for access improvements and stewardship.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not Contemplated.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Graham, 22 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333, (207) 592-6135, [laura.graham@maine.gov](mailto:laura.graham@maine.gov)